

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OPR-02 L-03 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 EUR-25

NEA-14 RSC-01 ABF-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 SCI-06 AID-20 DRC-01 /196 W

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FM USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: AORG

SUBJ: ECOSOC-ACC REPORT ON INFORMATION SYSTEMS

REF: GENEVA A-217

1. MISSION REP HAS DISCUSSED CONTENTS OF REFERENCED AIRGRAM (ADVANCE COPIES SENT LANE/IO AND USUN/STOTTLEMEYER BY INTERNATIONAL MAIL) INCLUDING TEXT OF PROPOSED RESOLUTION WITH MEMBERS OF GENEVA GROUP WORKING PARTY ON INFORMATION SYSTEMS (UK, CANADA, FRG AND JAPAN) AND WITH HANS DRUCKS, IOB STAFF DIRECTOR. IN THESE DISCUSSIONS IT WAS MADE CLEAR THAT PROPOSAL COMPRISED US MISSION RECOMMENDATION AND NOT NECESSARILY THE POSITION OF THE US GOVERNMENT.

2. WORKING PARTY MEMBERS SPEAKING WITHOUT INSTRUCTIONS FROM GOVERNMENTS, WERE ON THE WHOLE CAUTIOUSLY FAVORABLE. PRINCIPAL QUESTIONS RAISED WERE WHETHER CORE HAD PROVED ITSELF SUFFICIENTLY TO WARRANT SUPPORT FOR ACCELERATED DEVELOPMENT AND WHETHER IT APPROPRIATE FOR ECOSOC TO RECOMMEND OR INVITE UN/SYG AND AGENCY DGS TO PROVIDE BUDGETARY RESOURCES FOR THEIR PARTICIPATION IN CORE. MISOFF REPLY, WHICH MEMBERS APPEARED FIND CONVINCING WAS THAT ACC, IN RESPONDING TO UNCLASSIFIED

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ECOSOC GUIDANCE FOR IN-DEPTH STUDY, HAS POINTED TO

CORE AS THE MEANS WHEREBY ECOSOC REQUIREMENTS ARE TO BE MET. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, AND GIVEN THE NEED FOR EARLY ACTION TO DEVELOP SATISFACTORY INFORMATION SYSTEMS, IT APPEARS INCUMBENT ON ECOSOC TO SAY FULL SPEED AHEAD TO DEVELOP CORE. IT IS BETTER TO ACCELERATE DEVELOPMENT OF CORE EVEN IF IT EVENTUALLY TURNS OUT TO BE LESS THAN FULLY SATISFACTORY (ALTHOUGH WE DON'T EXPECT THIS TO BE THE CASE) THAN TO HAVE THE SLOW DEVELOPMENT OF CORE OVER SEVERAL YEARS BE THE ONLY SIGNIFICANT INTER-AGENCY EFFORT IN THIS DIRECTION.

3. WE ADDED THAT IT NECESSARY TO ASK AGENCIES TO DO SOMETHING SPECIFIC, I.E. PROVIDE BUDGETARY RESOURCES FOR PARTICIPATION IN CORE, IF OUR AIM IS A REAL FORWARD MOVEMENT RATHER THAN MERELY THE PAYMENT OF LIP SERVICE BY THE AGENCIES TOWARD THE OBJECTIVES WE HAVE IN MIND.

4. DRUCKS, WHO RETURNED TO GENEVA FROM ATTENDING A CONFERENCE IN CANADA, WAS SHOWN OUR DRAFT RESOLUTION YESTERDAY AND IS IN FULL ACCORD WITH IT. DRUCKS EMPHASIZED THAT WHAT CORE HAS TO OFFER IN THE WAY OF AN INVENTORY OF RESOURCES, ACTIVITIES, PLANS AND PROGRAMS IS PRECISELY WHAT LDCS ARE DEMANDING INCREASINGLY. HE SAID THIS WAS MADE PARTICULARLY CLEAR AT THE CONFERENCE HELD BY THE CANADIAN INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH CENTER ON DEVELOPMENT SCIENCE INFORMATION SYSTEMS, IN OTTAWA LAST WEEK.

THE CONFERENCE WAS ATTENDED BY REPS FROM UN AND AGENCIES AS WELL AS US (AID) AND A NUMBER OF DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. HE SUGGESTED THE INCLUDING ADDITIONAL PREAMBULAR PARAGRAPHS IN THE RESOLUTION WHICH WOULD REFLECT THE VIEWPOINT AND ATTRACT THE SUPPORT OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AS EXPRESSED BY A NUMBER OF REPRESENTATIVES AT THE OTTAWA CONFERENCE. THE PREAMBULAR PARAGRAPHS SUGGESTED BY DRUCKS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

"A. ACKNOWLEDGING THE NEED OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES TO IMPROVE THEIR CAPACITY TO USE INFORMATION FOR PLANNING OF DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES;
B) ADMITTING THAT THE LACK OF RELEVANT AND SELECTIVE INFORMATION IS A CHARACTERISTIC OF THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS;
C) RECOGNIZING THE NEED OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES TO HAVE AVAILABLE IMPROVED INFORMATION ON THE VARIOUS SERVICES
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RENDERED BY THE ORGANIZATIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM;
D. REALIZING THAT INFORMATION ON THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEMS' ACTIVITIES, RESOURCES, RESULTS AND FINDINGS, IS OF RELEVANCE AND SIGNIFICANCE TO THE PLANNING PROCESS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.
E. COGNIZANT (AWARE OF) OF THE NEED TO DEVELOP WAYS AND MEANS TO STRENGTHEN THE PLANNING PROCESS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN ORDER THAT THEIR IDENTIFIED NEEDS MAY BE MET

MORE EFFECTIVELY BY THE RESOURCES AND CAPABILITIES OF THE ORGANIZATIONS WITHIN THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM."

5. MISSION IS IMPRESSED WITH DRUCKS' COMMENTS AND WOULD AGREE TO DESIRABILITY OF INCLUDING AT LEAST A PART OF HIS RECOMMENDED TEXT IN THE PREAMBULAR SECTION OF THE PROPOSED RESOLUTION, PERHAPS PARAGRAPHS D AND E WOULD BE SUFFICIENT. DALE

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